

WASHINGTON— Today, U.S. Representative Harry E. Mitchell joined with a bipartisan majority of the U.S. House of Representatives to repeal the District of Columbia's ban on handguns. H.R.6842, the National Capital Security & Safety Act, passed the House by a vote of 266 to 152.

"I believe that responsible, law-abiding citizens should retain their ability to exercise their Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms," said Mitchell. "This vote reaffirms The Supreme Court's earlier decision to overturn the District's long standing handgun ban."

The District of Columbia's handgun ban was first enacted in 1976, and is one of the strictest in the nation. It prohibits the private possession of handguns in the nation's capitol and requires rifles and shotguns be kept unloaded and equipped with trigger locks or disassembled. In March 2007 the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit overturned the District's ordinance. The city then appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court. [Source: [The Washington Post](#) , June 26, 2008 ]

In February, Mitchell joined more than 300 members of Congress to sign a bipartisan amicus brief urging the court to reverse the ban, which prohibited an individual from owning a handgun. In June, Mitchell praised The Supreme Court's decision to overturn the District of Columbia's handgun ban. The court ruled 5-4 to overturn the District of Columbia's 32-year-old ban on handguns as inconsistent with Second Amendment.

## **Mitchell Votes to Uphold Gun Rights**

Tuesday, 16 September 2008

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Mitchell had joined with Republicans and Democrats in the House in co-sponsoring, H.R. 6691, the Second Amendment Enforcement Act, to restore the right of self-defense in the home and authorize law-abiding residents of the District of Columbia to purchase handguns. The text of this bill was included in H.R. 6842.